

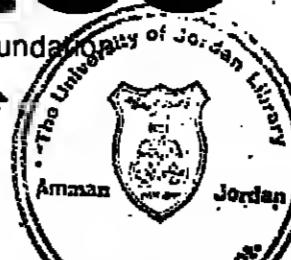
Iraqi leader awards bravery medals

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein awarded bravery medals Wednesday to more than 100 members of the navy, the official Iraqi News Agency said. The awards came four days after Iraq said it destroyed five oil tankers near the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island. Lloyds of London said three vessels had been damaged near the port of Bushire, 65 kilometres southeast of Kharg. The news agency quoted Mr. Hussein as saying at the medals ceremony that early next year the Iraqi navy would see "developments that would make it distinguished among the naval forces of the Middle East." The spearhead of Iraq's navy at present is 12 Soviet-built Osa-class missile boats.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Mubarak to visit Bonn in December

BONN (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Bonn for talks with West Germany's new centre-right government on Dec. 13-14, official sources said Wednesday. The visit will be Chancellor Helmut Kohl's first contact with a Middle East leader since he took office last month. It comes just two weeks before West Germany takes over the presidency of the European Community Council of ministers for six months. The sources said the trip would give Bonn a chance to assess the prospects for progress on Middle East peace moves during this period. Mr. Kohl plans to visit Israel next year and has given more enthusiastic backing than his Social Democratic (SPD) predecessor, Helmut Schmidt, to the Camp David peace accords between Israel and Egypt.

Soviet praesidium secretary dies at 70

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Georgadze, secretary of the praesidium of the Supreme Soviet since 1957, has died at the age of 70. His death was announced at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet Wednesday. Mr. Georgadze, a Georgian, fulfilled a largely ceremonial role but his name was well known because he had to countersign every Supreme Soviet decree.

5 Swedish doctors find way to cure diabetes

STOCKHOLM (R) — Five Swedish doctors say they have overcome a major obstacle to the success of pancreas transplants, which could cure the widespread and debilitating illness diabetes. Their new technique, which involves draining for a few weeks after the operation the acidic digestive juices produced by the pancreas, was tested about a year ago on six patients. Three of the patients still have their transplanted pancreases and are living without insulin injections.

Ershad to restore civilian rule in Bangladesh

DACCA (R) — Bangladesh's military ruler said he would institute a programme next year leading to the restoration of democratic civilian rule, probably by the end of 1984. Lt.-Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad told a meeting of senior government officials Tuesday he would first draw up a system to give the country a stable government backed by massive popular support. Elections for rural governments would be held next year followed by voting for 52 district councils a few months later. He said last month that the constitution, suspended since he took power in March, would be restored with certain amendments. Commentators believe the amendments would give the armed forces a permanent share in government.

El Al announces liquidation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's state airline El Al announced Wednesday it was going into liquidation, opening the way for the government to set up a new national carrier. After weeks of negotiations, the company said it had failed to win the support of the 900 employees for a drastic reorganisation of the loss-making airline, which has been plagued by labour disputes. The company's shareholders decided to "dissolve" El Al and turn the decision over to the government and the court of the Board Chairman Nachman W. M. told reporters. El Al, which has run in deficits of over \$200 million in recent years, would be put in the hands of receivers, he said. The government owns most of the El Al shares and said in advance it would dismantle the company if negotiations with trade unions failed. It has talked of setting up a new airline and Finance Minister Yoram Aridor told reporters he expected another national carrier would be established.

Begin 'might be harmed' by commission's findings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli commission probing the Beirut massacre of civilians announced Wednesday night that Prime Minister Menachem Begin and eight others might be harmed by its findings.

In the most explosive development since the judicial inquiry began five weeks ago, the commission advised the nine that they had the right to testify again or take legal advice.

Apart from Mr. Begin, the list included Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, Army Chief Rafael Eitan and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The others were the unnamed head of the Mossad secret service, Military Intelligence chief Yehoshua Sagiv, Amir Drori, commander of Israeli forces around Beirut, one of Mr. Sharon's top aides Avi Didiya, and a front-line officer, Brig.-Gen. Amos Yaron. A statement issued by the three-man commission said that in accordance with Israeli law it was informing the nine they had 15 days to request permission to reappear before them.

In Mr. Begin's case, it said he "may be harmed if the commission

they entered on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Mr. Begin also said he did not know a massacre had occurred until he heard a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio news bulletin on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 18.

The commission's statement said Mr. Begin "may be harmed" if it found his ignorance was tantamount to non-fulfilment of his duty as prime minister.

The statement said Mr. Sharon, architect of Israel's June invasion of Lebanon and the most hawkish member of the cabinet, might be harmed for three reasons.

These were if the commission

decided:

— That he ignored or dismissed from his mind the danger that Falangists would launch a wave of revenge killings against the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila and did not take measures to prevent this;

— Did not order the Falangists to leave as soon as possible after receiving reports of killings;

— Failed to fulfil his duties as defence minister.

Wednesday night's statement left numerous questions about the performance of the nine named, especially army chief Eitan.

MacGuigan, Abu Odeh discuss Middle East

AMMAN (Petra) — Canadian Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan conferred Wednesday with Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh on the Middle East question, peace initiatives and the Palestine problem.

The two ministers also discussed ways of promoting Canadian-Jordanian cooperation in information affairs.

The delegation accompanying Mr. MacGuigan on his visit to Jordan and Canada's ambassador here Keith Maclellan attended the

Hassan, Sarvath leave for Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath left Amman Wednesday for visits to West Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The visits are expected to last several days.

During the visit Prince Hassan will meet with several officials in those countries.

The Prince and Princess were seen off at Amman airport by Princess Alia, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan, and the ambassadors of West Germany, Britain and the Netherlands' consul general in Amman.

Wednesday's events in the Supreme Soviet, however, left open the possibility that Mr. Andropov might assume the state presidency at a later date.

First Deputy President Vasily Kuznetsov, 81, will meanwhile continue to fulfil the functions of head of state.

The proceedings ended spectacularly that new Communist Party chief Yuri Andropov, 68, might assume the state presidency Wednesday, thus taking over both of the posts formerly occupied by his predecessor, the late Leonid

Soviets appoint Aliyev 1st deputy prime minister

MOSCOW (R) — Newly-elected Communist Party politburo member Gaidar Aliyev was Wednesday appointed first deputy prime minister to a surprise Kremlin move that appeared to be a first step towards his ultimately becoming premier.

Mr. Aliyev, 59, was given the government post at a meeting of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) which later ended a two-day session in Moscow without electing a state president.

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Mitterrand in Egypt

CARDO (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Egypt Wednesday on a visit seen by diplomats as an important step in French efforts to take a place in Middle East politics.

President Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian cabinet and high-ranking military leaders turned out for a state welcome. Guards with machine guns flanked the route and sharpshooters manned the roofs of airport buildings.

Mr. Mitterrand is the first Western leader to visit Egypt since President Mubarak came to office after the assassination of his predecessor Anwar Sadat in October 1981.

With Mr. Mitterrand were his wife Danielle, French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, Culture Minister Jacques Lang and Gen. Jacques Mitterrand, brother of the president and head of the Aerospatiale Aviation and Missile Company.

The supply of French aviation equipment was expected to be a major topic in Mr. Mitterrand's visit. France is already Egypt's second biggest supplier of military and non-military goods after the United States.

Ghana's leader survives coup attempt

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (R) — The revolutionary government of Flt.-Lt. Jerry Rawlings said it was in control of Ghana Wednesday after loyal troops had crushed a coup attempt.

Details of the failed Putsch were scarce but informed sources in Abidjan said gunfire and mortars had been heard for several hours in the Ghanaian capital, Accra. Tuesday, night and early Wednesday.

"Loyal troops have successfully defeated an attempt to overthrow this regime," Flt.-Lt. Rawlings, 35, said in a radio broadcast at dawn Wednesday, announcing a tightened curfew and the closure of Accra Airport until further notice.

The radio gave no hint about the identity of the plotters or the extent of the fighting but told rebel soldiers to surrender or face "bombardment" from the air.

The sources in Abidjan said there were reports of casualties but this was not confirmed by the radio which praised "the vast

army of our soldiers" who had defended Ghana's revolution.

Other reports from Accra said the city was calm and people were working normally despite a strong military presence on the streets.

But it was clear that the overnight events were the most serious challenge to date to Ghana's 11-month-old revolutionary government, which is faced by an appalling economic crisis and widespread dissent.

Flt.-Lt. Rawlings seized power from President Hilla Limann last Dec. 31 with a handful of troops, and quickly set up a Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) intending to eradicate rampant corruption and mismanagement.

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army of our soldiers" who had defended Ghana's revolution.

Flt.-Lt. Rawlings has accepted it. But if confirmed, the departure of the Brigadier would strengthen the influence of Marxist radicals inside the PNDC, diplomatic sources said.

Flt.-Lt. Rawlings staged his first coup in June 1979 before handing power to President Limann three months later as promised.

But the failure of the PNDC to arrest the country's economic decline has led to a sharp drop in the council's popularity, according to diplomatic sources.

Thousands of skilled and middle-class Ghanaians have emigrated this year in search of work.

The council said last month it had neutralised an alleged plot involving "infiltrators" in the armed forces.

A curfew has been in force since Dec. 31, but was extended by four hours Wednesday morning, and the country has been virtually sealed off since the closure of land borders last September.

MADRID (R) — King Juan Carlos formally opens Spain's first leftist-controlled Cortes (parliament) since the civil war Thursday as Socialists speed up their takeover from the outgoing centrist government.

The solemn ceremony will have historical overtones for the 44-year-old monarch, whose late grandfather King Alfonso XIII went into exile in 1931 following a Republican election victory.

The situation is now radically

different, since no major party opposes the monarchy and all political leaders have paid tribute to the king for his part in protecting Spain's seven-year-old democracy and foiling an attempted military coup last year.

Mr. Gonzalez, 40, is expected to take power formally and announce his cabinet next week, more than a month after his Socialist Workers Party won an absolute majority in both houses of parliament, but a week earlier than the previously announced date of Dec. 9.

The political address will be delivered by Prime Minister-elect Felipe Gonzalez when he presents his government programme to the Congress (lower house) next Tuesday.

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HOME NEWS

S.Korean official holds talks

AMMAN (Petra) — South Korea's Deputy Minister of Construction Kwan Yung Wednesday held talks with Minister of Public Works Avni Al Masri here on Korean-Jordanian cooperation in construction projects in Jordan. They also reviewed the problems that had been impeding work on the construction of the Martyr Faisal College at Mu'ta near Karak undertaken by a South Korean construction company.

At the meeting, the Korean official expressed his country's readiness to train Jordanians various aspects of construction.

Mr. Yung, who left for New York Wednesday at the end of his three-day visit, also offered South Korea's assistance in the construction of a vocational training centre in Jordan.

The Mu'ta project has now been completed and handed over to the government.

Jordan plans special plates for vehicles in transit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is reportedly studying a proposal to request all vehicles passing in transit through Jordan on their way to other Arab countries to carry specially marked plates upon entering Jordanian territory.

The measure will also cover Saudi Arabian vehicles that are driven by non-Jordanians on their way home or to other countries, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper published Thursday.

The measure is designed to safeguard the rights of Jordanian citizens in case of road accidents. The specially marked vehicles would be easier to control while in Jordan, and this measure would prevent further violations of land transport laws, according to Al Ra'i.

Job description, production denominators studied Seminar on industrial productivity discusses specialised working papers

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar of the role of productivity in developing industry continued its sessions Wednesday at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The participants in the seminar, representing various industries and production sectors, listened in the morning session to two papers on "Job Description and Its Role in Productivity," presented by South Cement Company Financial Affairs Assistant Director-General Fawzi Nijm, and on "Denominators of Productivity," presented by Ministry of Industry and Trade Industrial Department Director Akram Karmoul.

Mr. Nijm referred in his paper to difficulties rising from lack of organisational structures in companies, which result in haphazardly defining responsibilities and authorities of employees. The paper said that present employment regulations centre on academic considerations and qualifications, and neglect other aspects, leaving them to personal evaluation by key officials of companies.

The feasibility of any academic grade does not usually play any part in employee selection and

salary assessment. Mr. Nijm asserted. He stressed that the basis for evaluation should be productivity and efficiency demonstrated by the employee, for which academic qualifications are only "preliminary."

Dr. Karmoul pointed out in his paper that productivity comprises more than an economic indicator in an industrial enterprise. It is the outcome of several production factors. Dr. Karmoul's paper said.

Dr. Karmoul made reference to some of the main reasons of low industrial productivity in Jordan, among which he mentioned small industries and crafts as a prevalent aspect of the industrial structure in Jordan. These occupy 82 per cent of the total volume of industries in the country, Dr. Karmoul said.

Dr. Karmoul's paper called for the improvement of general production conditions in factories, and pointed out that the concentration of industries in industrial estates help render them with organisational expertise and offer them better services.

Elaborate discussion of the two papers followed.

During the evening session, Labour Under-Secretary Tayseer Abdal Jaber presented a working paper which stressed that Jordan gives special attention to training and recruiting labour force to raise productivity ratios and enhance comprehensive development process.

Jordan has witnessed a rigorous education drive during the last three decades, as expressed in the establishment of three universities and more than forty community colleges, and the concentration on vocational training programmes. Dr. Abdul Jaber's paper said.

This added immensely to the size and quality of the labour force needed in the Jordanian market, the paper concluded.

Australian trade mission holds meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Western Australian government trade mission on a short visit to Jordan held a meeting here Wednesday with Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi and explored prospects of launching joint agricultural ventures in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Jordanian private sector.

The mission arrived in Jordan Monday as part of a wide-ranging Middle East tour to examine projects and develop trade in animal fodder technology, agricultural products and services.

The five-member team, led by Peter Booth, general manager, Western Australian Overseas Projects Authority, has already vis-

ited Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and will spend one week in Jordan before departing for Iraq.

While in Jordan the mission will have discussions with a number of government officials and private sector business concerning ways of increasing Australia's participation in the development of agriculture in Jordan.

Jordanian judicial delegation visits BBC

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Jordanian judges were guests of the British Broadcasting Service (BBC) during their visit to the United Kingdom recently.

An interview by Muir El Iwakil with the leader of the delegation, Judge Rateb Wazani, was broadcast to "Sound the Arab World," as part of BBC Arabic Service.

The delegation was in London on an official two-week visit, during which they attended several court sessions, sat in on an industrial tribunal hearing, and visited the Lord Chancellor's Department, the House of Lords and the Law Society.

To the picture (on right): The judges who members of the BBC Arabic Service, from left: Ghazi Bandak (BBC), Judge Yousef Hmoud, Court of First Instance, Judge Mashhour Koghi, Grand Felonies Court, Judge Rateb Wazani, under-secretary, Ministry of Justice and leader of the delegation, Judge Mohammad Alawneh, Court of Appeal, Irbid, Judge Tayseer Deery, Court of Appeal; Judge Mohammad Saad Raghib, president, Court of the First Instance, Amin Hafiz (BBC) and Munir Ebeid (BBC). Inset: Munir Ebeid interviewing Judge Rateb Wazani. (BBC photo)



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Conference stresses need to develop animal wealth to achieve food security

By Riyad M. Ahmad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A seminar on ways to develop unconventional sources of animal fodder in the Arab World concluded here Wednesday.

Participants in the five-day seminar, representing various Arab countries, discussed methods of exploiting agricultural and industrial waste for developing animal wealth in the Arab World.

Participants in the seminar recommended that an integrated economic plan for the Arab World should be prepared so as to reach a stage of self-sufficiency in food.

The delegates also called on all Arab countries to grow animal-feed producing crops. And to conduct research to introduce new technological methods in fodder industry.

They also recommended that an

Arab fund should be established to finance animal feed development projects.

They also stressed the need for exchanging research results, scientific publications and periodicals among animal feed specialists in the Arab World.

Participants in the seminar emphasised that a unified nomenclature system for all agricultural terms should be followed in Arab countries. A definition of chemical and nutritive value standards of animal feed is also necessary, the participants said.

At the beginning of Wednesday's session Dr. Hassoun Jum'a, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative to Amman delivered a lecture on food security strategy and food problems in the Arab World. He concentrated on the political, economic and social aspects of food problems.

Randa Habib's CORNER

Assault as a profession

Stopping at a red light is not very pleasant always but being assaulted by four boys at least while you're waiting for the green light, makes it even worse.

They offer you lottery tickets, chewing gum and even newspapers. Or it is the one who is begging using the traditional slogan: "I have no money to go home," or the one who goes ahead and clears your windshield with a show of authority.

All talk loudly and at the same time. One predicts you wealth and luck if you buy one of his lottery tickets, the other wishes you long life for a chewing gum.

No matter how much you reject the lottery ticket, because you simply do not want it or just because you are not a fan of these "luck games," the young boy (because it is usually young boys not yet through with childhood) does not give up.

If you decide to close your window to thwart him, your assailant would start knocking at your window to attract your attention. This is a common practice of all the young boys who are stationed at almost all the traffic lights in Amman.

I do not begrudge the sales of lottery tickets but why should it look like beggar and what are those young boys doing in the streets when they should be in school and how come that, at their age, they already have a profession? (if you can call these assaults a profession).

I believe that it is high time to study carefully and closely the problem of our children who linger in the streets.

Arab food security figures high at AOAD conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Food security in the Arab World was a major topic discussed at the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) ministerial meeting held in San'a, capital of North Yemen, between Nov. 20 and 22, according to Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin, who led Jordan's delegation to the meeting.

Speaking upon return here Wednesday, Mr. Dudin said that the organisation's activities and its fiscal budget were discussed by Arab ministers of Agriculture attending the meeting. An \$8 million budget for 1983 has been approved at the meeting, he said.

He added that the delegates decided that the AOAD should conduct several studies to determine the best way of cultivation in the Jordan Valley. The meeting also decided to open an AOAD office in Morocco, Mr. Dudin said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asfour to attend Arab meeting in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour is scheduled to leave for Tunis Thursday to take part in the Arab Social and Economic Council's 33rd session due to open in the Tunisian capital Saturday. On the agenda of the ministerial-level session are means of bolstering joint Arab economic projects and reports on inter-Arab economic cooperation.

Transport Ministry plans computerisation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport is considering installing computers at the Civil Aviation Authority, the Jordanian Ports Corporation and the Public Transport Corporation to regularise inventory control of spare parts, storage procedures and accounting, a ministry spokesman said Wednesday. The spokesman added that technical advisers will be appointed soon at these departments to conduct feasibility studies and to prepare tender documents for the project.

New Indian ambassador expected Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-appointed Indian ambassador to Jordan, Pyare Lal Saitoshi, and his wife are expected to arrive in Amman Friday, the Indian embassy in Amman said Wednesday. Mr. Saitoshi succeeds Mr. Abdul Ghaozi Goni, the former Indian ambassador to Jordan who left after a three-year tenure in September 1981.

Jordan media delegation in Doha

DOHA (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Mr. Ahmad Utum, director of the Press and Publications Department arrived here Wednesday on a visit to Qatar expected to last several days. During the visit, the delegation members will hold contacts with officials at the Qatari Ministry of Information within the framework of a bilateral agreement designed to promote cooperation between the two countries in information affairs.

Ports corporation to attend AFS meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Ports Corporation will attend the 15th meeting of the Arab Federation of Shipping (AFS) board of directors meeting due to open in Algiers on Dec. 14. A spokesman said that the directors will discuss ways of promoting the activities of the federation and increasing the use of Arab-owned vessels for transporting goods by and to Arab countries.

University to attend marine conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will attend the 70th session of the Indian Science Conference due to open in the southern Indian city of Tirupati early next year. Participants in the five-day conference are expected to discuss ways of exploiting marine wealth for development purposes. Dr. Ahmad Abu Hilal from the Faculty of Science, who is also director of the Marine Research Station at Aqaba will represent the university at the meetings.

JCO plans warehouses, workshop

IRBID (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has purchased 62 dunums of land near Al Ramtha agricultural cooperative station. JCO Irbid Director Jamal Obeidat said Wednesday. Central warehouses for fertilisers and fodder and a building complex for assembling and maintaining farm equipment will be built in the land, Mr. Obeidat said.

Cooperative seminar opens in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Wednesday opened a two-day seminar on the activities of Jordanian agricultural cooperatives in Irbid Governorate. The Jordanian cooperative movement, cultivation of rain-fed regions and budgets for agricultural cooperative societies are among the subjects to be discussed at the seminar.

JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Rhymes vs missiles

LITTLE Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and thinks they might be roaming. They haven't fled, they've all dropped dead from nerve gas in Wyoming.

This rhyme was written in the United States during the sixties, in the course of a protest campaign against the nerve gas experiments.

We wonder what the poet would think now of the prospect of a much deadlier weapon to be stationed there, namely the MX missile system.

If the USSR launches a nuclear attack against the United States, it is estimated that two "well-chosen" missiles would be sufficient to fill all American hospitals to full capacity. A nation may be destroyed, all the people may be killed—but rejoice for the MX missile system would survive and so it will be possible to retaliate.

This argument is as ridiculous as the whole nuclear arms race. There we have

the most "advanced" countries of the world, at a time when they (and almost everybody else) are tightening their belts and taking stringent economic measures, unable to combat the world's recession, unemployment, inflation, diseases, hunger, or even the common cold bug, sparing no effort or expense in combatting each other.

At a time when shortages of funds make it impossible to plan and execute an economic revival, when shortages in resources prevent the world from building a better world, resources are abundant when planning the destruction of this planet.

Between them the two major superpowers have amassed a weapons, nuclear and otherwise, arsenal big enough to destroy the world 75 times over, and we are left wondering why anybody should bother with the remaining number of 74.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Ai Ra'i: Lebanese can do without Israeli water

The water pipeline installed by Israel Tuesday to provide South Lebanese villages with drinking water from north Israeli sources paradoxically exposes Israel's pretences. Now there is a pipeline Israeli forces need to look after!

It is obvious this pipeline of "friendship" owes its birth to no humane or moral motives, which could have shown up when Palestinian refugee camps were the scene of brutal massacres—not to mention Lebanese victims—planned and organised by Israel.

Israel's new water pipeline can be nothing but a new evidence that Israel has no intention of withdrawing its forces from South Lebanon. Normalisation of relations with the Lebanese southerners, water or no water, seems to be an immediate Israeli target, that would create new difficulties for the Lebanese authorities in their drive to restore sovereignty over all Lebanese territories. The pipeline will certainly be subject to scrutinised bargaining on the Israeli side once it is brought to the negotiating table under the auspices of American envoys envoys Habib, and Draper.

The only thing the Lebanese really wish of Israel is their withdrawal from Lebanon. They simply want to be left alone, saved from all kinds of pressure, the new water-pressure included.

All the Lebanese, particularly those living in the south, need to manifest their complete cooperation and commitment to their sovereignty. Integrate their efforts with the legal authorities to foil Israeli plans, and thwart all attempts at transforming the south into a pawn.

Al Dustour: A well-based French stand can achieve a lot

On the eve of French President Francois Mitterrand's arrival in Cairo Wednesday, the Egyptian press published an elaborate interview with him touching on several issues, Middle Eastern one in particular. The Egyptians, as all Arabs, realise that France has a prominent role to play, as it enjoys a high degree of independence at the decision-making level, basically chalked out by the late Charles de Gaulle. The leading position France occupies in the European scene tremendously adds to the prominence of his role.

During the last two decades, Arab-French relations have witnessed immense development at the political, economic and arms-sales levels. France has been able, through its attitudes and position, to lead Europe on several occasions that manifested the real weight of the European continent, and its ability to pursue independent policies.

When President Mitterrand declares that he is the first European leader to recognise the Pal-

estinian's right to independent statehood, he is simply reiterating a balanced French foreign policy.

Such an attitude acknowledging peoples' right to their homeland are fully in compliance with the French Revolution's teachings of liberty, fraternity and equality. Regardless of bitter experiences the Arab Nation had to face by the stands of French governments, still the principles and values endorsed by the French people have been a source of hope for a French stand in harmony with such principles.

A French, and in a broader sense a European, practical stand in search of, and effectively pursued to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, will have a tremendous impact on the outcome of all peace proposals for the region, particularly the U.S. initiative.

Peace in the area, and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are of great consequence to the world peace. France is qualified to play a positive role in such a direction.

U.N. must do more with less

By Michael Littlejohns
Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations costs too much, according to three member states which together contribute more than two-fifths of its current annual budget of \$722 million.

The issue has thrown two of them, the United States and the Soviet Union, into an unusual alliance. Britain, long an advocate of economy in U.N. operations, is the other partner. Japan, West Germany and France, all of which pay a larger assessed share than Britain but less than either the U.S. or the U.S.S.R., also favour financial stringency but have pursued the matter with less determination.

The cost-cutters have a sympathiser if not an ally in Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, but are opposed by many Third World members. Most of these contribute only tiny sums to the organisation under the assessments system, yet they have the votes to push through hugely expensive U.N. programmes for which the big powers in the end must pay. Taking it cue from the Soviet Union and France, among others, the United States has started withholding funding for U.N. budget items that it does not like.

Moscow and Paris withheld support from U.N. peacekeeping operations of which they disapproved, causing a severe crisis that paralysed an entire session of the General Assembly in 1964 —

because by then the Soviet Union's accumulated debts were considered to have lost in the right to vote.

The amounts being withheld by the United States are trifling by comparison, involving for example U.N. expenditure for the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the South West Africa People's Organisation. Both bodies, regarded as terrorist by their foes, have observer status in the U.N. and receive U.N. financial aid.

Complaints about U.N. spending patterns are nothing new, but the advent of conservative and very cost-conscious governments in the United States and Britain, and the Soviet Union's persistent hard currency shortage have given the protests a sharper edge than before.

Jeane Kirkpatrick for the U.S., Sir John Thomson for Britain and Oleg Trouanovsky for the U.S.S.R., chief delegates of the three powers, recently made a joint diplomatic approach, said to be their first ever as a group, to the secretary-general.

Chop expenses
In the careful language of diplomacy, the meeting was termed exploratory. It is believed to have been much more than that, with the trio advising Mr. Perez de Cuellar that he had better chop expenses — or else. According to U.N. diplomats, the chief French delegate, Luc De La Barre de Nanteuil, wanted to join the group but for some unexplained reason and

France's displeasure was not invited. Earlier the American delegate in the budgetary committee, Senator Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, warned other members that the patience of the U.S. Congress was wearing thin. It was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain his approval for cash outlays to the U.N., he said.

The United States is assessed at 25 per cent of U.N. budget, by far the largest share, followed by the Soviet Union at 13 per cent. This year, those shares amount to \$180.3 million and \$93.4 million respectively. Britain's share of 4.6 per cent comes out at \$32.2 million.

The 1983 U.N. budget is estimated at \$784 million, an increase of 8.5 per cent on this year, and the critics say this is too much. Others say the sum is tiny for a vast organisation dedicated to peace and the economic development of poor countries when both super-powers think nothing of laying out much larger amounts for a single weapons system. The annual world armaments bill is estimated at \$600 billion. Per head of population, as a share of gross national product, the U.S. part of the U.N. budget amounts to pennies. But the U.S. still believes the U.N. must do more with less. John Hoskins, the American delegate in the General Assembly's financial committee, recently questioned whether it even does enough with that it has, particularly in voluntarily-funded development projects.

Large numbers of people of black African stock have mixed with the rest of the population, but the dominant influence is Malayo-Polynesian.

The ancestors of most of the Malagasy arrived on the island more than 1,000 years ago in giant outrigger canoes and people on the streets bear astonishing resemblances to a host of Southeast Asian and Polynesian populations. Ethnic types resemble Malays, Tahis, Filipinos, Indonesians and sometimes a mixture of several with black African strains.

Those shops that are open are mainly remarkable for bare shelves, and long queues form when rumours spread of the arrival of goods such as soap and electric light bulbs.

Madagascar, once a noted rice exporter, must now purchase 250 million tonnes of rice, its basic food staple, each year. Japan and the United States have donated 135,000 tonnes between them to make up for losses during recent

troublesome cyclones.

French influence
The nationalisation between 1972 and 1975 of banks, industry and import and export firms has led to external debts of over a billion dollars and the government recently called on private entrepreneurs to return in strength to economic activity.

Madagascar is slowly cooling its ties with the Communist bloc, which brought advice on socialisation of agriculture — rejected by farmers — and expensive military hardware. The country is now turning to the West for aid and France is enthusiastically stepping back in, providing close to \$100 million this year, or about half all foreign aid.

French influence never disappeared here. French is regularly spoken together with Malagasy, and a stream of people travel back-and-forth to Paris. Problems exist in rural areas where 80 per cent of the population live, and where subsistence farming is becoming more prevalent since there is little to buy with any farming profits.

One reason farmers tend not to

survive too hard is the fear of robbery by the dreaded "dhalos", traditional rural bandits who roam the island in groups of up to 70

men and have virtually halted all

nighttime traffic. Some areas only 100 kilometres from the capital are unsafe by day.

Mr. Joana said during his election campaign that the poorly-paid and ill-disciplined para-military police sometimes double as dhalos at night and prey on the population they are supposed to protect. Western embassies say there are documented cases of gendarmes renting their weapons for the night to the bandits.

The dhalos are well served by an increasingly depopulated road network which makes rare police operations against them difficult.

The roads are so bad that some

new industries never began operating because once all-weather roads leading to them were out of use for months after rains and landslides.

The drive from the capital to the

port of Tamatave which took five

hours at independence now takes 13 hours. The obvious problems of the country have produced general discouragement among the people, foreign diplomats say. As one local wit said in summing up the mood of the people: "If this is Socialism, I'll take colonialism back any day."

UNC violations
In those meetings the north has charged the other side with 292,807 truce violations — shooting incidents, infiltration, violation of sea and air-space — while the UNC has presented 65,388 claims, including evidence that the north has built three attack tunnels under the dmz.

The UNC, now made up of only U.S. and South Korean troops, has admitted to 104 violations while the north has acknowledged only two, both in 1953.

A U.N. force of 450,000 from 16 countries — 400,000 from the United States — faced North Korean and Chinese armies in the war. But, with the exception of a few scattered foreigners, only the Americans have remained. Representatives from Sweden, Switzerland, Poland and Czechoslovakia compose the neutral commission that oversees truce village meetings.

This day there are no meetings, and only a few North Korean guards return with studied indifference the stares and picture-taking of the visitors. Outside, in a cold rain, U.S. members of the UNC stand armed with cameras, ready to film any incident.

Another landmark along the tour is the stump of a popular tree adjacent to U.N. guardpost 3 overlooking the "bridge of no return," the only road link between the two Koreas. In August 1956,

The U.S. and South Korean group visiting Pannmunjom this day are part of a tour programme to give soldiers defending the dmz a chance to look the enemy in the eye, and as Patton said, "show them what they are defending against."

Patton said the North Koreans have thrown rocks and candy, lit fires, drawn guns and rained the UNC soldiers. UNC members have at times returned this dangerous chivalry, but he said that particularly after the ax-murder incident, any such conduct has meant immediate expulsion from the corps.

"We know there are no second chances if we do something wrong."

The U.S. and South Korean group visiting Pannmunjom this day are part of a tour programme to give soldiers defending the dmz a chance to look the enemy in the eye, and as Patton said, "show them what they are defending against."

They normally are part of the half-million troops in the U.S.-South Korea command who face an equal number of North Koreans across the 4-kilometre dmz of 39,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, up to 1,500 man the dmz, aiding the much-larger South Korean force along two natural attack corridors, one leading to the capital of Seoul only 56 km south of here.

Since 1953 about 10 U.S. personnel and more than 4,000 South Koreans have been killed in incidents along the dmz, many in the late 1960s when tensions were at a peak. Nowhere else in the world today do U.S. troops patrol night with live ammunition and orders to shoot intruders on sight.

Recently the unpopulated scrub hills of the dmz have been quiet.

But as in Pannmunjom, the fear of violence is always present. "They (North Koreans) have 200 guns lined up at us over a 200-metre area," said one U.S. soldier, "the north ever attacked, our chances of survival are zero."

RED & BLACK

Jordan's worthiness is not its only credit

I cannot quite understand why a piece of news about Jordan would create so much raucous noise. It was said here or there that Jordan might borrow a large sum of money on the Euro-dollar market or somewhere else.

Then suddenly this was taken, particularly by the Israelis, as a sign of Jordan's economic slump or squeeze or crunch ... take your pick.

To answer such allegations, Dr. M.S. Nabulsi, Governor of the Central Bank made an assuring statement. It left no doubt in mind about Jordan's very sound foreign exchange position.

Despite all the talk about Israel's frustration over Jordan's politics, there are other underlying reasons which I believe must be explained in order

to cast a light on Israel's psychoanalytical position.

The Israelis have created an image in the world at large, and in the USA in particular, based on the comparisons they strike between their ability to turn the desert into a blooming pasture and the Arab's inability to do like wise. They were, as they claimed, able to utilise the generous aid they got from the USA and Europe into real assets. When they received hundreds of millions of dollars in the fifties and sixties, Jordan in comparison, received very small amounts.

During this period (1948-1953), Jordan and Israel's average growth rates were comparable, and in many instances, Jordan's performance was better. Moreover, while Israel had all western technology and the

expertise of Jewish scientists at its disposal, Jordan was struggling to get even a simple franchise.

On top of that, Palestine is mainly a green fertile land, while Jordan is mainly a desert and land whose blessings even as concerns water, ports, energy, soil or infrastructure was very meagre indeed.

While Israel won wars and received flows of aid as a consequence of its victories, Jordan on the contrary lost land. Jordan also in 1967 got its population problems compounded by an overnight increase amounting to 30 per cent of its population.

While Israel had to shoulder war expenditures, Jordan's burden for defence and the

adfastness was no less in relative importance.

Let us move to 1982. Jordan's growth rate is at 10 per cent in real terms while Israel is in a recession. Jordan has a rate of inflation below 10 per cent while Israel's rate is over a hundred. Jordan finances the West Bank's balance of payments deficit, while Israel absorbs it through its military policies.

Jordan enjoys more than full employment while Israel suffers from unemployment and continuous labour disputes.

Jordan's debt service is manageable while Israel is rescheduling its massive loans.

The tax burden in Jordan is fair, whereas the tax burden on

the Israelis is prohibitive. Any rational comparison favours Jordan.

If Jordan wins over Israel in its economic performance, how can Israel justify its claims of occupying certain areas in order to turn them into blooming pasture? What miracle is Israel doing that Jordan cannot and has not done?

It is embarrassing to note that Israel considers any economic problem Jordan seems to encounter as an opportunity for Israel to exploit. All the military glamour of Israel cannot hide its economic failure.

Jordan is in good and sound shape. We can always rely on our sense of achievement to withstand the winds.

We did so in the past, and we are now better equipped to continue doing so.

At Truce village

The 30-year war of nerves goes on

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press

PANMUNJOM, KOREA — A concrete slab less than a metre wide runs down the centre of the "truce village" on the Korean demilitarized zone, the only demarcation between enemies who for almost three decades have lived together in an aura of barely contained violence.

Madagascar is slowly cooling its ties with the Communist bloc, which brought advice on socialisation of agriculture — rejected by farmers — and expensive military hardware. The country is now turning to the West for aid and France is enthusiastically stepping back in, providing close to \$100 million this year, or about half all foreign aid.

Rich and poor countries share pessimism

By Michael Littlejohns
Reuters

UNITED NATIONS — Pessimism is rife in rich and poor countries alike, in a convergence of moods not seen for decades, according to a United Nations study.

"Irrespective of the country, economic troubles have meant for some an absolute decline in the standard of living, for others an abrupt interruption in the steady improvement that they had come to take for granted, and for still others a loss of confidence in their future prospects," U.N. officials said.

Economic events had set back the fight against mass poverty characterised by poor nutrition, ill-health, shortened lives, drudgery, low output and lack of access to social services.

This sentence summed up their assessment: "The main concern regarding equity has shifted from a fair share in growth to a fair distribution of the cost of re-enrichment."

The 210-page report on the world social situation cited a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimate that at least 430 million people had an insufficient diet.

While within the Third World malnutrition was most stark in large towns, the greatest number of hungry people was to be found in the countryside, and in most countries children aged under five were the most seriously affected.

Since smallpox was eradicated, there was no evidence that major diseases in developing countries had significantly reduced. Diarrhoea, a leading cause of child deaths, claimed at least six million lives yearly—a million more than from cancer, the report said.

Accidents accounted for about 10 per cent of all deaths in the developed countries and were the third leading cause of death in the developing ones, the report noted. Deaths by suicide were on the same scale as from motor accidents.

In a typical affluent society, health care absorbed 7.5 per cent of gross national product, with hospitalisation taking half the total, physicians' services 30 per cent and drugs and devices 20 per cent.

Turning to education and training, the report estimated there were 800 million illiterates, including several million in the more developed countries who were often fearful of being unmasked.

The document also said that although children generally spent more years in school, a sizeable proportion were functionally illiterate when they left with their diplomas.

Five million people earned their living, directly or indirectly, from military activity, and 500,000 researchers, or 20 per

cent of the qualified scientists, worked on defence.

"The number of persons wearing military uniforms exceeds all the teachers and physicians throughout the world," the report said.

According to the U.N., nuclear weapons are bargain priced compared to what they cost in 1945, the only time they were used in war. Nothing that today's arsenal of 50,000 nuclear warheads could destroy the world and everything in it, the report said fresh efforts to halt the arms race were urgent.

"When the unthinkable is treated as a technical issue, ordinary citizens may react more vehemently against the armament culture and the militarisation of societies that seem to plague the world at the beginning of this decade," it said.

Arabic heritage put to poetry

WASHINGTON — A gifted American poet of Arabic heritage has combined words and music to share her childhood memories with a growing number of Americans.

Naomi Shihab Nye, winner of the 1981 National Poetry Award, is the daughter of Aziz Shihab. He emigrated from Jerusalem to the United States, where he became editor of the Dallas Daily News.

Nom's sensitive appreciation of her Arabic ancestry is beautifully expressed in her poetry, some of which has been put to music and which she sings, accompanying herself on the guitar. One of the primary sources of her poems is, "our own ancestry sifted down to us through small essential daily tasks."

Growing up in the southwest United States, Naomi brought together her love for words and her love of music. The poetry she creates is typical of both Arabic verse and the oral traditions of the southwestern story tellers of the United States.

The young poet appeared at the Wolfrap barns near Washington Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 under the sponsorship of the International Poetry Forum working in conjunction with the Arab American Cultural Foundation in Washington. She is the second of six artists to participate in "word/song" series exploring the affinity between poetry and music.

According to Samuel Hazo, Arab American poet and founder and director of the International Poetry Forum, Naomi's belief in how precious one's own origins are reflected in such poems "my father and the figtree," which tells of how her father, after years of living in the United States, planted a fig tree in his yard in Dallas, Texas. In other poems she speaks of the stories she was told as a child that became more alive after she visited the land of her origins.

Poet of daily life

Describing her poetry and philosophy in a recent interview, Naomi explained, "growing up in a bi-cultural home, with a Palestinian father and an American mother, I was always conscious that there were many possibilities and variations in the world—not just one way to see or say things." "Some poets say they are poets of ideas or philosophy or of dreams or memories," she continued, "but I have always felt that I am a poet of daily life. I feel very close to lives that are lived in small or thorough ways."

For nine years, Naomi Shihab Nye has worked with Texas school children of various ethnic backgrounds, reading and discussing her poetry. "I try to get across the preciousness of their personal vision and the need to be open to cultivate all the good one can," she says.

Naomi's belief in how precious one's own origins are reflected in such poems "my father and the figtree," which tells of how her father, after years of living in the United States, planted a fig tree in his yard in Dallas, Texas. In other poems she speaks of the stories she was told as a child that became more alive after she visited the land of her origins.

-- USIA

"I have many relatives who have stayed in the same village or small outside Ramallah on the West Bank. These are the sort of people", she says, "whose lives are composed of tangible, close-to-home objects. There is something in that kind of life that appeals to me deeply."

And to the Americans who read or bear poetry, stories of the six-year-old boy "bugging the jukebox" and singing every song he hears by heart, her "biography of an Armenian schoolboy or the story of her hemmed uncle," For Mohammad on The Mountain, carries a common chord and reminds them of people and places buried in their own childhood memories.

According to the American English poet W.H. Auden, "poetry is personal speech in its purest form. It is essentially a spoken, not a written word." The International Poetry Forum was started in 1966 so that poets might read to the paying public at large, and not just to students and faculty.

Since its inception in the city of Pittsburgh, the forum has presented not only poetry readings, but recitations and musical programmes that have won international recognition. Approximately 200 events have been sponsored featuring the world's most distinguished poets.

This is the first year the International Poetry Forum has scheduled an event outside Pittsburgh.

Karin Eisele, vice president of Orbis, explained that the idea for

Orbis: Compact flying hospital

WASHINGTON — The insight of a U.S. physician ten years ago is now restoring the sight of people around the world who suffer from eye disease and blindness — through the use of a flying hospital.

The U.S. project Orbis (orbis is the Greek word meaning globe) is a DC-8 airplane that has been transformed into a compact teaching hospital, complete with an 8-seat classroom, patient examination room and operating room.

The operating room is furnished with state-of-the-art equipment needed to perform intricate surgery on the eye. The equipment, much of which has been donated by U.S. technology corporations, is especially designed to maintain its calibration and stability during the vibration of movement that occurs in flight.

Since March 1982, Orbis has been used as a teaching forum for eye physicians in Jamaica, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Colombia, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Turkey, China and the Philippines. The airplane, with its staff of physicians, nurses, technicians and flight crew, travels only at the request or invitation of a country. Experts in the areas of eye surgery and ophthalmology (the study of the eye and eye disease) are invited to join the staff for approximately two weeks at a time to demonstrate specific treatment and surgical techniques and to discuss them with physicians and surgeons in the country being visited.

Karin Eisele, vice president of Orbis, explained that the idea for

flying hospital dedicated to teaching and the restoration of sight was conceived ten years ago by ophthalmologist David Paton of Baylor University in Texas. Paton had travelled in other countries as a physician and found that "if you didn't leave teaching (methods), you left only frustration," Eisele said. Paton also noted the importance of exchange of ideas among physicians of different countries. For treatment of blindness.

The result of Paton's ideas is Orbis, considered to be an efficient and cost-effective way of teaching ophthalmologists and treating patients.

Collection of contributions

Orbis is the synthesis of contributions from U.S. corporations, individuals and the U.S. government. The airplane itself was donated to the project by United Airlines. Special video cameras designed specifically for medical use were provided by Son Corporation of America. Audio and video equipment also provides direct contact between the surgeon in the operating room and physicians who are located in an overflow building near the airplane, watching the operation on television screens.

More than 100 major corporations have provided support to the project, and the U.S. agency for international development has contributed approximately one million dollars.

Orbis and its medical staff are

prepared to aid patients with all types of vision disabilities, from removing a parasitic worm that had burrowed into the eye of one man to restoring sight by transplanting a new healthy eye into an other patient.

During a recent visit to China, William Harris, an ophthalmologist from Texas who was invited to accompany the Orbis team, corrected the blindness of a man after performing a cornea transplant.

The cornea — the transparent surface of the eyeball through which light passes into the pupil — was carried onboard Orbis from the Dallas eye bank in Texas.

The incidence of eye disease and blindness throughout the world is increasing, according to Eisele. In many Third World countries, use of unclear, parasite-infested water for washing contributes to a great number of cases of eye disease.

Eisele estimated that after five years, project Orbis will have saved the sight of three million people by virtue of the training and new knowledge that is dispensed to ophthalmologists worldwide.

Although the Orbis schedule is tentative, pending official invitation by individual countries, the flying hospital will probably before the end of the 1982 spending time in Malaysia, Thailand and Pakistan. In early 1983, Eisele said, Orbis may be scheduled to visit a number of countries in northern Africa, and possibly Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The sale follows a decision by the Cimino company, which has

Controversy surrounds

Italian auction

By Roger Cohen
Reuters

ROME — Antique dealers say it is one of Rome's finest auctions: the public queues to take part, but Italian film-makers Federico Fellini and Franco Zeffirelli condemn it as a disgrace.

The controversy surrounds the auction of some 15,000 articles, ranging from the exquisite to the truly hideous, which have served over the past 50 years as props for the Italian film industry.

There are busts of Italian dictators Benito Mussolini, portraits of Lenin, countless ornate beds and tables in the style of Louis XIV and XV. Chinese and Japanese vases, Persian carpets, and over 1,000 paintings of every school and period.

There is the old cash register that served in Bonnie and Clyde, the samovar from which Omar Sharif drank in Doctor Zhivago. A shell-shaped bed used by Fellini in City of Women, a gold-embossed wooden table ordered by Luigi Visconti for The Innocent, and a chaise longue on which Elizabeth Taylor reclined languorously in Cleopatra.

The auction, which will continue until Dec. 14, began this week, while a heavily made-up young woman stood outside with a sign reading: "Do not buy anything. The heart of our film industry is being dismembered."

Despite her plea, business was brisk in the auction room, a warehouse next to Cinecitta, the Roman film studios located on the outskirts of the capital.

About two hundred people were packed into the warehouse, whose wooden beams were hung with chandeliers and beds decked with massive gilt-framed mirrors awaiting sale.

Prices for some articles, including a pair of Chinese vases, rose over \$1,300 as auctioneer Franco Pesando hurried through the first of the 7,788 lots.

The sale follows a decision by the Cimino company, which has

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square-metres warehouses, each of them piled high with bric-a-brac. It is easy to understand the company's decision to sell rather than move.

The firm, run by three brothers from the Cimino family, began as general antique dealers before becoming specialised in props for the film industry.

Vincenzo de Crescenzo, the director of the Barbino Auction House, which is organising the huge sale, says most of the items have been preserved in excellent condition by Cimino and some antiques are worth over \$10,000.

Irreplaceable objects

All experts agree that the auction will make the Cimino brothers rich. But directors like Zeffirelli have declared that it should not have been allowed because the objects are part of Italy's cultural heritage and are irreplaceable.

During the two-week long exhibition that preceded the sale, Zeffirelli and Fellini launched a media campaign to have the ministry of culture declare some of the goods "of particular artistic and cultural value."

As much they would have been removed from the sale and preserved by the state.

But following an inquiry by outgoing Culture Minister Vincenzo Scotti, the sale was allowed to go ahead as planned.

One Italian set designer, Mario Gargiula, who was involved in the campaign to stop the auction, has not given up, however.

He told journalists at the opening of the sale that he and a consortium of film industry people, backed by an unnamed financier from Milan, intended to try to buy up to 60 per cent of the Cimino goods to ensure they were safeguarded.

"This is a large slice of Rome's film history. It should not just disappear into 1,000 homes," he declared.

But that is just what appeared to be happening as prints, paintings, tables, chairs, carpets, vases and the like followed each other onto the auction stand and a wide variety of bidders drove prices higher and higher.

"We got an eviction order and decided there was nowhere to put our stock. So we offered it to Italian television, but they turned it down and we opted to sell," a Cimino spokesman said.

Seeing Cimino's four 400-

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GATT's chief urges government to stop protectionism

GENEVA (R)—General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director-General Arthur Dunkel Wednesday urged governments to break what he called the vicious circle of protectionism.

Opening GATT's first ministerial-level session for nine years, he called on the meeting to show the trading nations' determination to keep markets open, despite increased competition resulting from the world recession.

Trade ministers of 88 countries which are signatories of GATT's liberal trade guidelines, accounting for 80 per cent of world trade, will be reviewing international trade rules during the four-day meeting.

The Swiss director-general also urged making agriculture subject to GATT rules.

Behind the different stands on this and other subjects lie mutual accusations that nations are already breaking GATT's anti-protectionist rules, as well as suspicion over motives behind policy positions taken ahead of the meeting.

U.S. Trade Representative Bill Brock, in a speech to the meeting, called for a renewed commitment to a liberal, open trading system, including pledges to end existing infringements of GATT rules and to refrain from such offences in future.

Mr. Brock also urged a new approach to agricultural subsidies which he said brought "wasteful and dangerous competition."

European Economic Community (EEC) delegates claim their farm export subsidies are permissible under the so-called Tokyo Round GATT agreements of 1979, which allow such support if it does not result in an unfair share of trade.

ECC Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp pledged to withstand protectionist pressure in the Community's 10 member countries. But he said it was not prepared to take on new commitments or new negotiations so soon after completion of the Tokyo Round.

Mr. Haferkamp disputed the view that creeping protectionism was to blame for the fact that world trade fell last year for the first time since 1958. The stagnation was due solely to a sharp fall in trade of oil products, he said.

Defending the Community's refusal to countenance new liberalisation measures, he said the world's trading system had so far largely weathered protectionist pressures.

Rejecting allegations that the Community was retreating on commitments to free trade, he said its members imported twice as many manufactured products per capita as the U.S. and nearly four times as many as Japan.

Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Yoshio Sakurachi, defending his country against allegations that it obstructed imports, said: "Japan is today one of the most open markets in the world."

In an apparent reference to U.S. and West European curbs on imports of Japanese cars and other goods, he criticised other governments for resorting to bilateral trade restrictions counter to the essence of GATT.

Mr. Sakurachi said Japan agreed temporary import curbs might sometimes be necessary to safeguard jobs, but should only be imposed by mutual agreement and not unilaterally.

Both Mr. Sakurachi and Australian Deputy Prime Minister Doug Anthony called for a forceful commitment against existing and future protectionist measures.

"The time is long past for a papering over the real and deep problems that confront the multilateral trading system," Mr. Anthony said.

He also strongly supported U.S. moves to liberalise what he described as massively distorted trade in agricultural products.

"The sorry story of agriculture is one that the founding fathers of GATT could never have foreseen in their most despairing moments," he added.

West German Economy Minister Otto Lambsdorf said selective safeguards, supported by the European Community as a whole, conflict with certain basic GATT principles.

He was speaking of the import restrictions which apply only against one country, rather than multilaterally as under GATT agreements.

Count Lambsdorf also urged the session to "defuse the dangerously charged situation in agricultural trade," adding disputes over farm exports could spread to other sectors of trade and cause substantial damage.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Maybe you should spin a cocoon and see what happens in the spring."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lea

Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOARP

GELEY

UMSCAP

HEYBER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: DOESN'T

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: GUIDE TANGY JAILED BEHAVE
Answer: Where that pottery thief will probably end up

U.S. space shuttle to launch Arab satellite

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Arab Satellite Organisation (Arabsat) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have signed a launch services agreement for the U.S. space shuttle launch of a telecommunications satellite for Arabsat.

Arabsat is an Arab consortium which will operate a public satellite system for telecommunications and direct broadcast for 22 member countries

and organisations.

NASA administrator Mr. James M. Beggs and Dr. Ali Al Nashat, the director general of Arabsat, signed the agreement on Nov. 22.

The Arabsat-B — spacecraft built by Aerospaciale and Ford Aerospace, is scheduled for launch aboard the U.S. space shuttle in Oct. 1984.

A McDonnell Douglas spin-stabilised upper stage called Pan-D will be used to boost the spacecraft in a geosynchronous

transfer orbit; a smaller rocket motor on the spacecraft will position the spacecraft in a circular geosynchronous orbit.

According to Dr. Al Nashat, the craft will serve the telecommunication requests of Arabsat member countries.

These include Arab League nations and Egypt, which is currently not a member of the Arab League, but is still a participant in Arabsat.

The satellite, which has an esti-

mated seven-year life span, will provide 140 million people in more than 20 Arab-speaking countries with 8,000 telephone channels. It will also provide seven television channels for domestic and regional services and an educational channel.

At a press conference, Dr. Al Nashat said that the agreement marked an important step in international communications. "We think this will show developing countries what can be achieved

through a regional satellite system."

He explained that the current agreement is for the second of three proposed communication satellites.

Arabsat-B will cost \$11.6 million to launch and an additional \$8.5 million for a payload assisting module to move it to a higher orbit.

When asked if the current satellite and its successor were pla-

nned as a result of the recent successful flight of the U.S. space shuttle, Columbia. Dr. Al Nashat replied that the current agreement had been in the works for the past two years.

He also said that the communication system was commercial only, with no military functions and that at this time he did not know whether Egypt would be cut from the programme if it does not rejoin the Arab League.

USSR to boost labour productivity

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership announced plans Tuesday to reverse a slump in economic growth through a sharp rise in labour productivity next year.

A draft economic plan for 1983 put before a session of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) set a goal of a 3.3 per cent rise in national income next year compared with a provisional estimate of 2 per cent this year.

The plan, read out by State Planning Committee Chairman Nikolai Baibakov, called for industrial output to rise by 3.2 per cent against an expected 2.8 per cent this year, the lowest since World War II.

A poor start to 1982, the second year of the Soviet Union's 1981-85 five-year-plan, put a target of a 4.7 per cent rise in industrial output beyond reach.

Mr. Baibakov gave no figure for the Soviet grain harvest this year, but he quoted one figure which suggested that overall farm output was well below the hoped-for level for the fourth successive year.

He said agricultural output this year would have a value of 124 billion roubles (\$166 billion) compared with the plan target of 136.5 billion roubles (\$182.5 billion).

Mr. Baibakov's figure suggested that overall results were slightly better than in 1981, when farm production totalled 120.1 billion roubles (\$160 billion) — still far below expectations.

The target for next year was put at 137.3 billion roubles (\$183.5 billion), but without individual crop targets.

In May, the Kremlin launched a "food programme" to try to put agriculture on a sound footing, but the leadership has said food shortages would not be eliminated for years to come.

Mr. Baibakov said agriculture would continue to get a large share of Soviet investment, while new capital projects would be cut back in order to free resources for the completion of slow-moving current projects.

But, following the critical line taken by new Communist Party Leader Yuri Andropov in a speech to the Communists Party Central Committee Monday, he made clear that present economic performance was not good enough.

Mr. Baibakov said next year's plan for a faster rate of economic growth depended on a sharp rise in labour productivity.

He said 9.5 per cent of the growth in national income, 9.1 per cent of the growth in industry and 100 per cent of the growth in agriculture would have to come from higher productivity.

The Soviet economy has traditionally fuelled growth by expanding its labour force each year, but population trends in the 1980s have brought this expansion to a halt and the Kremlin says it is now looking for intensive growth.

However the rate of increase of productivity per industrial worker fell from 34 per cent in 1971-75 to 17 per cent in 1976-80 and has continued to decline in the 1980s.

In 1981, productivity in industry improved by 2.7 per cent and Mr. Baibakov said the figure for this year would be only 2.0 per cent. But next year productivity would go up by more than 3.0 per cent, he added.

Mr. Baibakov singled out the iron and steel industry and the railways for criticism among those sectors which failed to meet their plan targets.

Mr. Baibakov said oil production would rise next year to 619 million tonnes (12.38 million barrels per day), slightly above this year's targeted 614 million tonnes (12.28 million).

He said that production in West Siberia, the Soviet Union's biggest oil and gas region, would climb by 18 million tonnes next year to 372 million of 60 per cent of the total.

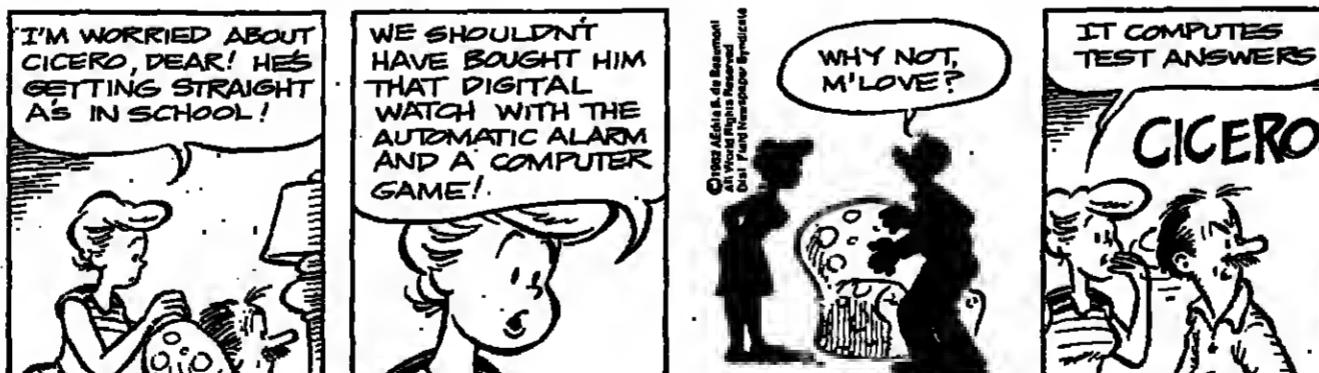
Natural gas, which Soviet planners intend to take over from oil as the number one fuel for domestic use and export in the late 1980s, would step up output to 529 billion cubic metres from the targeted 492 billion cubic metres this year.

West Siberia's share would for the first time be more than half of Soviet production, rising to 51 per cent next year from 46 per cent this year.

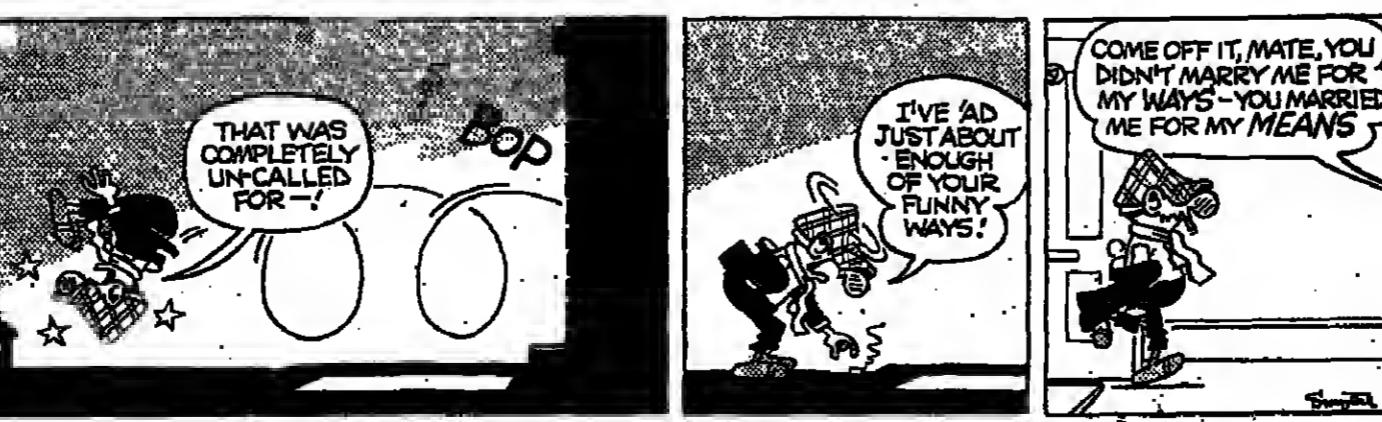
PEANUTS



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Britoil shares drop by 20%

LONDON (R) — Shares in Britoil, the British state-owned North Sea oil company sold to the private sector on Friday, dropped by 100 pence in cash with the balance due in April.

The opposition Labour Party dubbed Friday's sale a disaster, after small investors and pension funds took less than 30 per cent of the 225 million shares on offer.

But Energy Secretary Nigel Lawson, brushing off calls for his resignation, said the government had fully underwritten the sale preventing any loss to the British

taxpayer.

Oil shares, once a firm favourite with investors have been hit by a slump in world demand for oil.

Mr. Lawson blamed Friday's lack of interest on an interview in which Saudi Arabia's oil minister suggested that Organisation of

Petroleum Exporting Countries might consider a price cut.

The sale of Britoil, the state's oil exploration company, contrasted with the hugely over-subscribed sale in February of state-run radio-active material producer Amersham International.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, NOV. 25, 1982

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This can be a most effective day if you make a point to stick to proven methods. Avoid a tendency to get involved in untried schemes. Be on time for appointments.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure you carry through with agreements made with others. Show more affection for the one you love and get better response.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Gain the support of good friends for whatever your aims may be and get good results. Show appreciation for their help.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Show higher-ups that you are willing to go along with their ideas. Avoid a tendency to spend more money than you can afford.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have fine ideas that need more study before you put them in operation. Strive for increased happiness.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Get in touch with experienced persons in business who can help you advance in your line of endeavour. Avoid one who likes to argue.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make an effort to come to a better accord with associates. Not a good time to start on any new projects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your environment and make plans for improvement in the future. Be sure to budget your money more carefully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't invest too heavily or expect too great a profit in today's dealings. Avoid one who is troublesome. Be wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know what family members expect from you and do your best to please them. Show more affection for loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be very clear in stating your aims now so that others will understand them and be willing to go along with you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have financial matters that should be handled with the aid of experts. Make plans to be more prosperous.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Seek the right personal outlets so that you can live your life more as you want it to be. Avoid one who is gossipy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those persons who should be taught to accept those things that are proven and orthodox in nature, otherwise your progeny could easily go off on wrong tangents and become less successful.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 26, 1982

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day for you to decide just what you want to do to improve your relations with others in the future. Try to think of some new means by which you can please them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Ideal day to go after your most cherished aims in a most courageous and positive fashion. A time for making new friendships.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact congenials and you can get excellent support for your new ideas. Don't neglect personal duties.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do whatever will please good friends and gain their appreciation. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Look for a new system through which to operate in the future so that you can become more successful.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Put new ideas to work and get the support of experts who can help you to advance. Show others that you have wisdom.

WORLD

Nakasone poised to be premier

TOKYO (R) — Veteran conservative Yasuhiro Nakasone emerged as Japan's next prime minister and leaders of the various factions within his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) immediately began bargaining over the makeup of his cabinet.

Socialist leader Ichio Asakata, whose party is the main opposition group in parliament, said the new government would be the most militaristic the country has had since World War II.

But there would be stiff opposition among Japanese to any radical remilitarisation, an attitude dating back to their 1945 defeat in World War II.

Mr. Nakasone, a former defence minister with "hawkish" views on military matters, was assured of becoming prime minister when he won an unexpectedly easy victory over three rivals in voting among party members for the presidency of the LDP.

Mr. Nakasone, 64, has held a variety of cabinet posts during the past 20 years and has been in the mainstream of LDP policy-making for even longer.

As prime minister, he might be more amenable to American pressure for Japan to take a greater defence role in view of the Soviet military buildup in the Far East.

But in addition to the extent of anti-militarist feeling, the fact that Mr. Nakasone's cabinet will have to represent the party's long-standing factional groups may also temper its defence policies.

Top cabinet posts are likely to go to members of Mr. Nakasone's own faction and those of his main backers, outgoing Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and one of his predecessors, Kakuei Tanaka. Mr. Suzuki resigned as prime minister last month.

An old ambition

TOKYO (R) — Yasuhiro Nakasone, 64-year-old master politician who now set to become Japan's next prime minister, has never hidden his driving ambition to take over as head of the Japanese government.

Although his political career appeared at an end in 1976 after he was carried in connection with the Lockheed payoff scandal, a affair which still dominates Japanese politics, Mr. Nakasone used nimble footwork to launch a recovery that led to his triumph Wednesday.

He reaped an unexpected 58 per cent of votes cast by the rank and file of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in a primary election Wednesday to help

choose the next party president, who automatically becomes prime minister because of the LDP's majority in parliament.

In 1976 Mr. Nakasone denied any connection with the Lockheed scandal, telling parliament after he was questioned by the public prosecutor's office:

"I swear I have done nothing wrong. Both my hands and my soul remain unstained."

Although no charges were laid against Mr. Nakasone, in the ensuing popular reversion over the scandal he was dropped as secretary-general of the LDP in a reshuffle of cabinet ministers and top party executives.

Mr. Nakasone is a vastly experienced politician who has served in number of senior posts.

He is a former defence minister, noted for making strong pro-American statements, and a former minister of international trade and industry.

The outgoing cabinet was head of the administrative management agency, which supervises the streamlining of the Japanese bureaucracy.

The normally low-key post carried more weight after Mr. Suzuki spotlighted administrative reforms as one of the major means to cut expenditure for the rehabilitation of Japan's deficit-ridden finances.

He gained the premiership with the hacking of his own faction, plus factions run by Mr. Suzuki and Mr. Tanaka.

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He is a former defence minister, noted for making strong pro-American statements, and a former minister of international trade and industry.

Mr. Nakasone struggled to regain his footing in the party, which has governed Japan without a break since 1955, but earned the reputation of being a backroom boy with an almost blinding ambition to become prime minister.

He has been branded by critics as a careerist and an opportunist, a political weather-vane happy to swing in the political winds if they advanced his aspirations.

This reputation was underlined in 1980 when Mr. Nakasone dro-

peed out of a group of LDP politicians opposed to the then Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, who had the support of Japan's political kingmaker, former Premier Kakuei Tanaka.

Mr. Ohira died in office in 1980 to be succeeded by Zenko Suzuki, the outgoing prime minister.

Political commentators now regard Mr. Nakasone as having been rewarded for supporting Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Ohira and later Mr. Suzuki.

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